

The Cancer Legal Resource Center CHRONICLE

June 1, 2011

National, Volume XIV

Stay Connected!

Follow us on:



Need Legal Help?

Click here to complete our online intake form: <http://bit.ly/g82CHb>

Get Involved!

Join the CLRC Professional Panel!

The CLRC is seeking attorneys to join its Professional Panel and help people navigate their cancer-related legal concerns. A volunteer attorney can make the difference!

For more information, [click here](#).

Support the CLRC!

Make an online donation, by [clicking here](#).

Sign up to volunteer!

If you are interested in helping out in the CLRC office or in attending events as a representative of the CLRC, please call us at (866) 843-2572 or [click here](#) to complete a volunteer application.

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

In this month's issue of the Cancer Legal Resource Center Chronicle you will find:

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Best regards,

Joanna L. Morales, Esq.

Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center

What's New at the CLRC!



Registration is now open for all three 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!

Join the CLRC for these **FREE** events that will provide patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, navigators, and health care professionals with valuable information about cancer-related legal issues. **FREE continuing education credit for qualifying nurses, social**

workers, and attorneys! For more information and to register online, visit www.CancerRightsConference.org.

Note: Registration and hotel accommodations for the Chicago Conference

June 2011 Events

For information about these events, contact us at 866-THE-CLRC (866-843-2572) or CLRC@LLS.edu.

To see the entire 2011 Events Calendar, [click here](#).

Get Connected: Cocktails and Conversation

Thursday, June 2, 2011

7:00 p.m.

English Bar

Chicago, IL

Join Sharsheret, Cancer Legal Resource Center, FORCE, Bright Pink, and MyLifeLine.org for an evening of cocktails, networking and fun! Catch up with old friends and make new ones. Learn about what our organizations are doing in your community and how you can get involved. [Click here](#) to view the event invitation. To RSVP, e-mail rschwartz@sharsheret.org.

Building Bridges to Optimum Health: Prevention, Treatment and Control of Cancer in Our Community Conference

Friday, June 3, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

California Science Center

Los Angeles, CA

For more information, click [here](#):

www.haafii.org/Upcoming_Conferences.html

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society 10th Annual Cancer Survivorship Conference

June 4, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Brookfield Zoo - Discovery Center

Brookfield, IL

For more information, visit: www.lls.org

ASCO Annual Meeting

June 3-June 7, 2011

Booth # 3008

McCormick Place

(June 24, 2011) are now limited. Please visit the Chicago Conference webpage for details: <http://cancerrightsconference.org/chicago-2011>



SHARSHERET
Your Jewish Community Facing Breast Cancer

Get Connected: Cocktails and

Conversation on Thursday, June 2nd in Chicago!

Join Sharsheret, Cancer Legal Resource Center, FORCE, Bright Pink, and MyLifeLine.org for an evening of cocktails, networking and fun! Catch up with old friends and make new ones. Learn about what our organizations are doing in your community and how you can get involved. [Click here](#) to view the event invitation. To RSVP, e-mail rschwartz@sharsheret.org.

**National Conference on
WORK & CANCER**

CLRC Is A Proud Partner of Cancer and Careers' National Conference on Work and Cancer!

This FREE Conference will discuss the complexities of balancing cancer treatment and recovery with employment. The Conference will take place on June 17, 2011 at Desmond Tutu Center in New York City. To register and for more information, visit:

<http://www.cancerandcareers.org/en/community/events/conference>.



Tickets are now available for CLRC's Casino Angeleno on Saturday, July 23, 2011! The CLRC's summer casino fundraising event is back by popular demand! Join us on the roof top deck of the Petersen Automotive Museum for a fun-filled summer night of guilt-free gaming, food, cocktails, music, and fabulous prizes. To purchase tickets, visit www.cancerlegalresourcecenter.org/casinoangeleno.

Meet the CLRC's Summer Law Clerks

By Shawn Kravich, Esq.

The Cancer Legal Resource Center is thrilled to announce that the Summer Law Clerk program has begun! Sixteen talented students have joined the CLRC team for the summer. We are lucky to have law students from all over the country. We are also pleased to announce that we have an undergraduate intern from Wheaton College who will be focusing on legislative advocacy work to improve the lives of people affected by cancer. Please join us in welcoming:

Marissa Buck - Graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in International Studies-Political Science, and is entering her second

McCormick Place

Chicago, IL

For more information, visit: www.asco.org

**"Understanding Health Care Reform:
Overview of the Affordable Care Act"**

June 9, 2011

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. PST

Free teleconference/webinar

Presented by the CLRC

To register, click here: <http://bit.ly/hMHaJ9>

"Cancer and the Law"

June 14, 2011

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. PST

Free teleconference/webinar

Presented by the CLRC

To register, click here: <http://bit.ly/gLYdld>

**Cancer and Careers Presents:
National Conference on Work & Cancer**

June 17, 2011

Desmond Tutu Center

New York, New York

For more information, click here:

<http://bit.ly/hucBCO>

**Colon Cancer Alliance National
Conference**

June 23 - June 25, 2011

Denver Marriott City Center

Denver, CO

For more information, click here:

<http://bit.ly/elt8Wo>

Cancer Rights Conference

Friday, June 24, 2011

Marriott Downtown/River North

Chicago, IL

To register for this free event, click here:

<http://svy.mk/emkxlv>

For more information, visit the conference website:

www.CancerRightsConference.org

**Hoag Cancer Institute Survivorship and
Education Series**

June 20, 2011

year at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Sarah Gross - Graduated from the University of Redlands with a degree in Government, she is now entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Kelly Nugent - Graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a degree in Political Science and is entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Ross Rinehart - Graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with degrees in English and Political Science and is entering his second year at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Laura Foody - Graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with degrees in Psychology and Film Studies and is entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Rachael Lavi - Graduated from Brandeis University with a degree in International and Global Studies, and is entering her second year at Pepperdine University.

Nikhil Pillai - Graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Business Administration, he is now entering his second year at Georgetown University Law Center.

Julian Lean - Graduated from the University of Southern California with degrees in Mathematics and Economics and is entering his second year at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Garrett Lindsey - Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, with degrees in Economics and Sociology, after which he graduated from the University of Oregon with a Masters in Economics. He is now entering his second year at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Lizbeth Najera - Graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a degree in Accounting, and is entering her second year at Santa Clara University School of Law.

Darcy Elgin - Graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Neuroscience and Behavior, and is entering her final year in a joint J.D./M.P.H. program at the University of Arizona.

Renee Kimm - Graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in Human Biology and is entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Sarah Pavlock - Graduated from the University of Central Florida with a

June 30, 2011

Newport Beach, CA

More details to follow!

degree in Political Science, she is now entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Tammy Chang - Graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Art History and is entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

Elizabeth Urena – is currently enrolled at Wheaton College and is focusing on legislative advocacy efforts that improve the lives of people with cancer.

Cheryl Banares – Graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Mass Communications and is entering her second year at Loyola Law School.

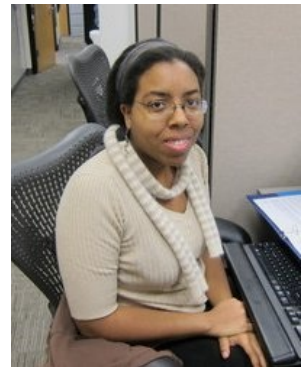
We hope that each of the 16 talented new additions to the CLRC family will have a personally and professionally fulfilling experience here—learning about how the law can help protect people with cancer in employment, health care access, and future plans.

To learn more about opportunities for law students at the CLRC, please visit: <http://bit.ly/CLRCStudents>.

CLRC Student Spotlight

By Shawn Kravich, Esq.

Melissa Christian is one of our very talented volunteers who has continued to volunteer with the CLRC for the past several months. Melissa plans on attending law school in the fall—we hope that the CLRC has given her a lot of insight into how knowledge of the law can be a powerful tool to improve the lives of others! Melissa was kind enough to sit down with us and answer the following questions about her experience so far.



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born and raised in Los Angeles with my parents and two siblings. I graduated from Pomona College in 2010, with a major in Psychology. I decided to take a year off after college to figure out what career path was best for me (to figure out what career path I was most interested in). Throughout college I was most interested in social reform, and volunteered for organizations that helped low income families, so I knew whatever I ended up doing it had to involve some sort of public interest aspect.

How did you hear about the CLRC? Why did you join the CLRC for your

Spring externship?

I heard about the CLRC from the career development office website at my college. I joined the CLRC because I wanted to learn more about how specific laws affect low income or disadvantaged individuals as well as gain hands-on experience working with clients.

What are some of the experiences you will take away with you?

I have learned a lot from volunteering for the CLRC, including a wide variety of laws and legal rights that range from employment to estate planning. But more importantly I will take from this experience the joy working along with a staff who is here to provide help to cancer survivors and those in need.

What were some of the harder aspects of working in the cancer community and what are some of the more fulfilling ones?

One of the most challenging aspects of working in the cancer community is working against time. The situation of our callers is constantly changing—all of us at the CLRC have to work as quickly as possible to get the information and resources to individuals before their situation changes for the worst.

The most fulfilling aspects are when you are finally able to reach individuals and give them the information they need to improve their situation. To hear the happiness in their voice or to know that I have helped them in some small way makes volunteering at the CLRC one of the most rewarding experiences I have had so far.

To learn more about opportunities for students and volunteers at the CLRC, visit:

[www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org/about/cancerlegalresource.cfm#externships.](http://www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org/about/cancerlegalresource.cfm#externships)

Cancer Rights Law Seminar at Loyola Law School Prepares Future Cancer Rights Advocates

CLRC Director, Joanna Morales, is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Loyola Law School Los Angeles. Ms. Morales teaches a seminar course in Cancer Rights Law at Loyola each Fall. This course surveys different areas of the law that commonly impact people coping with cancer, including employment rights and discrimination, insurance, health care reforms, Social Security Disability appeals, estate planning, and genetic discrimination.



The course covers relevant laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, state fair employment laws, health, disability, and life insurance statutes, ERISA, Social Security Act, COBRA, HIPAA,

Genetic Information and Nondiscrimination Act, health care reform, and pending state and federal legislation.

During previous semesters, students have heard from guest speakers practicing in various areas of the law, and have participated in a mock Social Security Disability appeals hearing. For more information about this course and the area of Cancer Rights Law, please contact CLRC@LLS.edu.

Updates For Health Care Professionals



The CLRC is committed to providing health care professionals with useful information about cancer-related legal issues that many of their patients face as a result of a cancer diagnosis. While we recognize that it should not take legal resources to access health care, understand insurance options, or preserve one's job, it frequently does. **When information is easily accessible, we believe the quality of outcomes for patient survivorship improves.**

Hard Copies Now Available for Order! The HCP Manual - A Legal Resource Guide for Oncology Health Care Professionals - 2nd Edition (2011). Spiral bound hard copies of The HCP Manual are available for \$5, payable by check or credit card. To order a hard copy of The HCP Manual, download the order form by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/HCPOrderForm>. The CLRC thanks Winston & Strawn LLP for generously donating printing services for this project.

HCP Survey:

In an attempt to strengthen our educational resources for the cancer community, we have composed an online survey to learn more about the frequently asked questions and concerns raised by patients, and thoughts on the role health care professionals play in providing information to their patients. It only takes about ten minutes, so if you are a physician, nurse, social worker, patient navigator, or psychosocial care professional, please give us your valuable feedback! **Take the survey now by clicking here:** [www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCPsurvey2011!](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCPsurvey2011)

HCP Educational Opportunities:

CLRC Director, Joanna Morales will speak on "Navigating Cancer Legal Resources" at the **National Coalition of Oncology Nurse**



Navigators 3rd Annual Conference on September 9-11, 2011.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nconn.org/>

Join Cancer and Careers on **November 17, 2011**, from 3-4pm EST for their **Fall Educational Series for Healthcare Professionals "Session 3: Legal and Insurance Issues to Consider."** Learn how to advise your patients at Cancer and Careers' free series of teleconferences/webinars designed just for healthcare professionals. CEUs available. Registration information is coming soon and will be posted at <http://bit.ly/cancerandcareers>.

Earn FREE CEUs at the 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!

The CLRC will host three Cancer Rights Conferences on **June 24** in Chicago, IL, **September 23** in Washington, D.C., and **October 21** in Ann Arbor, MI. **Space is limited. Register for FREE today at www.CancerRightsConference.org!**



Updates For Attorneys



Join the CLRC Professional Panel!

295 attorneys nationwide have made the commitment to help people navigate their cancer-related legal concerns. A volunteer attorney can make the difference! To learn more about the CLRC's Professional Panel and to sign-up today, click here: <http://bit.ly/j55VWN>

Earn Free CLE at the CLRC's 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!



The American Bar Association Health Law Section is the official CLE Sponsor for the 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences. The CLRC has secured the following continuing legal education credit for the Conferences:

California attorneys will receive 7 hours of CLE general credit. This conference has also been approved by the **Arkansas** Continuing Legal Education Board for 6.75 hours of CLE credit, the **Illinois** Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board for 7 hours of CLE credit, the **Indiana** Commission for Continuing Legal Education for 7 hours of CLE credit, the **Iowa** Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 6.75 hours of CLE credit, the **Maine** Board of Overseers of the Bar for 6.75 hours of CLE credit, the **Mississippi** Commission on Continuing Legal Education for 6.8 hour of CLE credit, the **Missouri** Bar MCLE Department for 6.8 hours of CLE credit, the **North Carolina** State Bar Board of Continuing Legal Education for 6.5 hours of CLE credit, the Supreme Court Supreme Court of **Ohio** for 6.75 hours of CLE credit.

the **Pennsylvania** Continuing Legal Education Board for 6.5 hours of CLE credit, the **Vermont** Judiciary Mandatory Continuing Legal Education for 6.75 hours of CLE credit, the **Virginia** State Bar Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board for 7 hours for CLE credit, and the **Wisconsin** Board of Bar Examiners for 9.5 hours of CLE credit.

Approval is pending for 7 CLE hours with the State Bar of **Nevada** Continuing Legal Education Department.

Could the rules in your state be changing? HHS Makes Changes in Some States to the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans

As part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as health care reform), Congress created new insurance options for individuals who have a pre-existing condition and as a result are unable to buy individual health insurance policies. While the exact name for these plans differs by state, generally they are referred to as Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans (PCIP). Some of these insurance plans are operated by the state and in 23 states these plans are operated by the federal government through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

On May 31, 2011, HHS announced that they would be reducing premiums in many states to make it easier for people to enroll in these plans. In 17 states and the District of Columbia, premiums will be reduced up to 40%, bringing costs for the PCIP programs closer to the rates of the states' individual health insurance markets.

In addition to reducing premiums, eligibility requirements for the federally run PCIP programs will also be relaxed. To qualify for a PCIP, individuals must be U.S. Citizens or lawfully present in the U.S., have a pre-existing condition, and have been without health insurance for the past six months. Previously, individuals had to apply for an individual health insurance policy, wait for a denial letter, and then apply for the PCIP program in their state. Often times this would result in an even longer delay in obtaining health insurance. Recognizing the flaw with this requirement, HHS will now accept a letter from doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner stating that the applicant has a pre-existing condition or illness.

These changes will make obtaining health insurance more affordable for and accessible to those coping with cancer. It is important to note that these changes only apply to states in which HHS is running the PCIP program. However, HHS has sent a letter to the other 27 states letting them know about

the opportunity to amend their programs as well. For more information about the PCIP plan in your state, please visit www.PCIP.gov or contact the CLRC at 866-THE-CLRC.

CLRC Thanks Chicago Cancer Rights Conference Session Sponsor: Lotus Blossom Consulting!



About the CLRC

The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC) is a national, joint program of

the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School Los Angeles. The CLRC provides free and confidential information and resources on cancer-related legal issues to cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, employers, and others coping with cancer.

A cancer diagnosis can carry with it a variety of legal issues, including insurance coverage, employment discrimination, access to health care, and estate planning. These legal issues can cause people unnecessary worry, confusion, and stress, and can be overwhelming. When these legal issues are not addressed, people may find that although they have gotten through treatment, they have lost their homes, jobs, or insurance.

Since its founding in 1997, the CLRC remains unique, providing invaluable cancer-related legal information and resources to people nationwide. Throughout

Disability Rights Legal Center

CLRC

Cancer Legal Resource Center

its 14-year history, the CLRC has served over 235,000 people through the Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC), Cancer Rights Conferences, seminars, clinics, outreach programs, and other cancer community activities.

The CLRC is funded by grants and donations and the Combined Federal Campaign is a great way to donate to the CLRC. If you are a federal employee, please consider participating in this campaign and donating to the **Disability Rights Legal Center, CFC #30555**. State employee campaigns will also find us under **Disability Rights Legal Center**.

Visit www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org for more information about cancer-related legal issues and services provided by the Cancer Legal Resource Center.



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